

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study for Russell Prater Creek near Haysi in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties, Virginia. This stream was identified on the 1998 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for the Aquatic Life Use - General Standard (benthic).

The first public meeting on the development of the Total Maximum Daily Loads to address the aquatic organism impairment on Russell Prater Creek will be held on **Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Haysi Town Hall in Haysi Virginia. The Town Hall is located in downtown Haysi. The purpose of the study is to identify sources and determine reductions of pollutants so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

Russell Prater Creek is located in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties east of Haysi, Virginia. The impairment includes about 11 miles of Russell Prater Creek from its headwaters at Poplar Gap to its confluence with Russell Fork River in Haysi.

The public comment period will end on **September 20, 2004**. The fact sheets describing the impairments are available upon request or can be viewed at the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.state.va.us>. Address questions or information requests to Nancy T. Norton, P. E. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-1688, telephone (276) 676-4807, fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.state.va.us.